Here's to another
year of bringing you
the projects you love!
Happy 10th Anniversary
@Esthetique!!

One day in the wonderful world of the Esthetique Realm, a single brave soul approached our admins with the most horrible news ever
Shekyl Proofreader
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
Rayn Translator
Kuhr
Kitsune Admin
FROZEN
Rose? Did you hear me?
WOBBLE
Oh, crap!
Kitsune-sama! Are you OK?
BONK!
What could've been so bad as to render all of our admins totally unconcious?
Was it a worldwide shortage of manga? Did Shoujo manga cease to exist?
Oh, no! It was something much more sinister
STAFF SHORT-AGES!
SNAP!
HUGE PILES OF TRANSLATED CHAPTERS...
SPREAD THE NEWS, WE NEED NEW EDITORS AND QC-ERS STAT!
If you think you've got what it takes, contact us at esthetiquestaff@gmail.com.

AMERICA

By Keiko Ichiguchi

Volume 1 Chapter 5 (end)

Credits:
Scanner: Tampopo24
Translator: Rayn
Proofreader: Lenne & Rayn
Editor: hkgames

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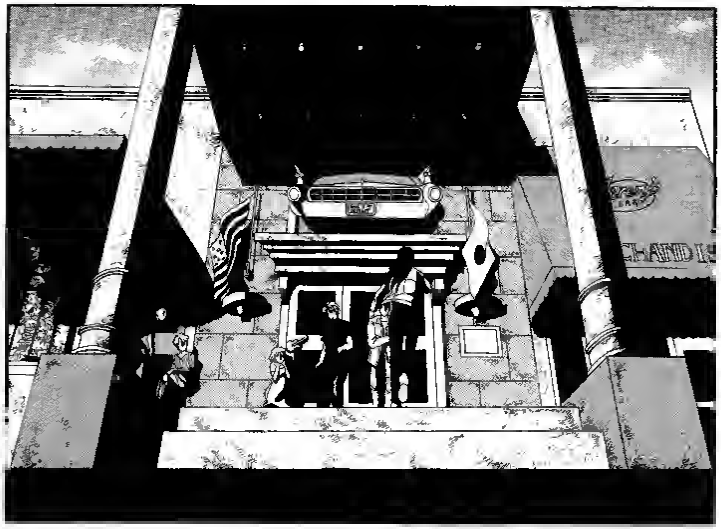
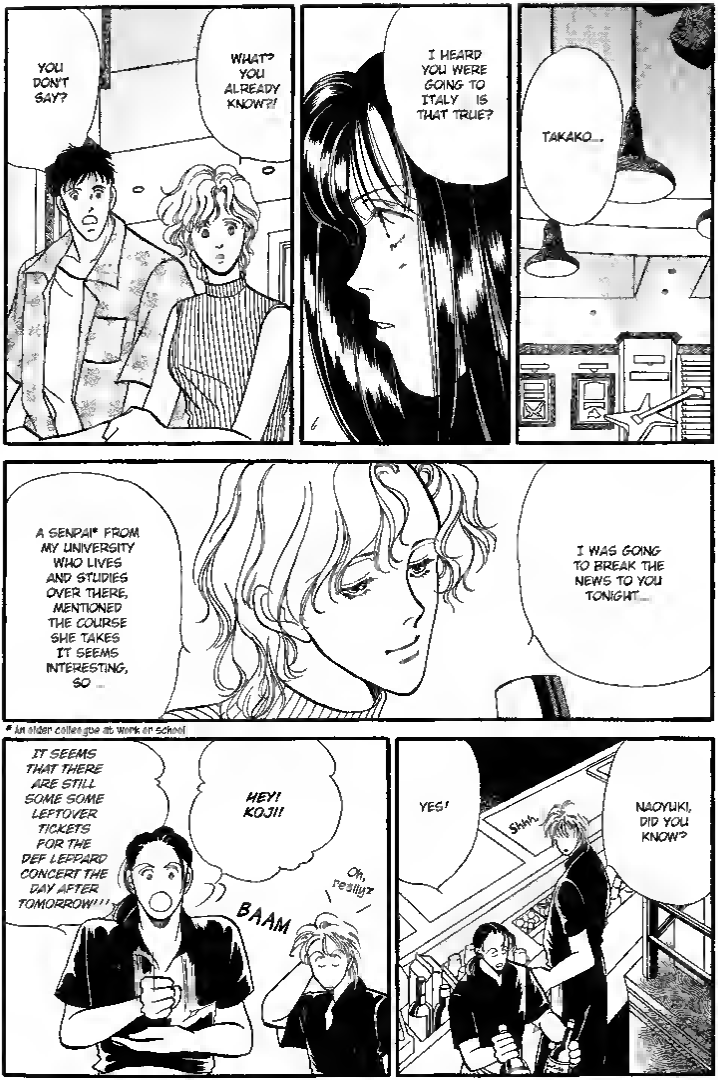
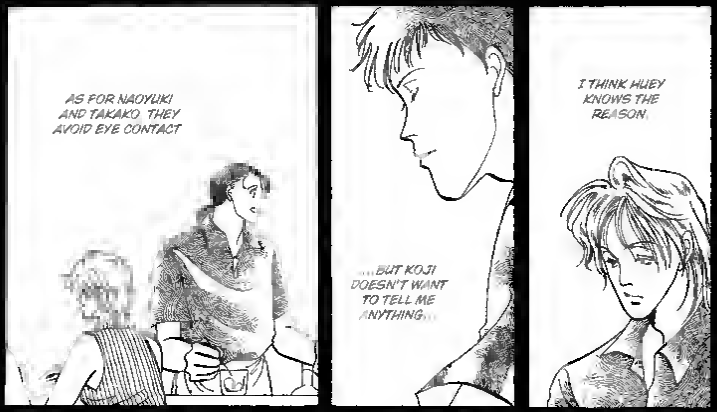
AMERICA

Chapter 5




YOU DON'T SAY?
WHAT? YOU ALREADY KNOW?!
I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO ITALY IS THAT TRUE?
TAKAKO...
A SENPAI* FROM MY UNIVERSITY WHO LIVES AND STUDIES OVER THERE, MENTIONED THE COURSE SHE TAKES IT SEEMS INTERESTING, SO ...
I WAS GOING TO BREAK THE NEWS TO YOU TONIGHT...
* An older colleague at work or school
IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME SOME LEFTOVER TICKETS FOR THE DEF LEPPARD CONCERT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!!!
HEY! KOJI!
BAAM
Oh, really?
YES!
Shhh...
NAOYUKI, DID YOU KNOW?

...AND I HAVE MY REASONS
WELL, I'M CLEARING OFF
I'M TOTALLY BROKE.
OH... I'D REALLY LIKE TO GO BUT I CAN'T.
WHY ARE YOU WORKING IN A RESTAURANT?!
WHAT?! REALLY?!
...I SAID I HAD MY REASONS
I HAD NO IDEA...
BUT WHY?


AS FOR NAOYUKI AND TAKAKO, THEY AVOID EYE CONTACT
...BUT KOJI DOESN'T WANT TO TELL ME ANYTHING...
I THINK HUEY KNOWS THE REASON.

EVEN IF ALL OF US ARE GATHERED HERE...
IT'S LIKE EVERY ONE OF US IS ALONE...

HEY! JEREM...
THERE YOU GO! I WAS RIGHT
JEREMY, I'M GOING OUT TO THE TERRACE. THE TABLES MUST BE SOAKED...
OH! THANK YOU!
!
HI, GUYS HOW ARE YOU?

ALL JOKING ASIDE... HOW IS HUEY?
HA HA HA! NO, BUT IF I CATCH YOU WALKING AROUND THE STREETS LATE AT NIGHT, I MIGHT BUCKLE DOWN!
ARE YOU HERE TO TAKE US HOME?
YOU... YOU ARE THE CHIEF OF THE JUVENILE LIAISON OFFICE...
TURN
HE'S FINE HE MUST BE OUT ON THE TERRACE...
OH...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CHIEF, HE ISN'T THERE!

LET'S LOOK FOR HUEY!
?
CLACK
NOTHING, NOTHING... IT'S ONLY THAT I HAVEN'T SEEM HIM MUCH LATELY... AND I WANTED TO CHECK UP ON HIM
IF YOU SEE HIM, TELL ME
WELL THEN, I MUST GO DON'T STAY OUT TOO LONG. IT FINALLY STOPPED RAINING...
KOJI, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!
"IT'S NOT A PROBLEM..."
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. WE MUST FIND HIM...
"IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TOO, ISN'T IT?!"
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN! HURRY!
TAKAKO, STAY HERE... IF HE COMES BACK YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GET A HOLD OF US...
BUT KOJI! WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

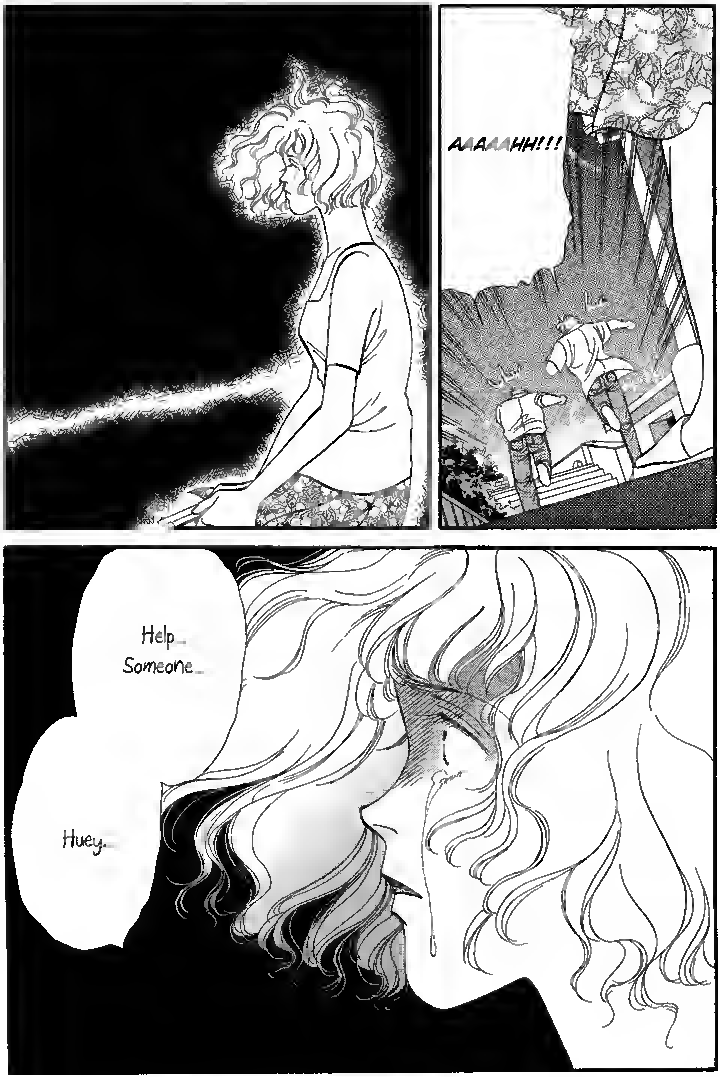
THEY MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE OR IS IT MY FAULT?!
SHIT! HOW DID THE POLICE FIND ME?!
TAP
TAP
TAP
Huff...
Huff...
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
Huff
SPLASH
SPLASH
!
ANYWAY I HAVE TO STASH THAT THING AT MY PLACE!

HURRY! BRING THE STRETCHER!
HEY! YOU! DON'T LET CURIOUS BYSTANDERS PASS!
HAVE YOU FOUND THE WITNESSES?!
HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED THE VICTIM?
NO.
IS HE CONSCIOUS?

WHAAAP
HEY! YOU! WHO ARE YOU?!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
WHO ARE YOU?! DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?!
STEP BACK. YOU!!!
WHAT'S THAT OLD MAN DOING THERE?
IT'S NOT HER...

THROW
AH!
HEY! YOU...
HE'S GETTING AWAY! CATCH HIM!
MARIKO!
HEY, LITTLE ONE, ARE YOU ALL ALONE?

AAH!!!
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
GRAB
COME ON... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN!
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A DRINK WITH US?
DON'T COME NEAR HER!
ARGH!!!
DASH
BUT... BUT THAT'S BLOOD!


AAAAHH!!!
Help...
Someone...
Huey...

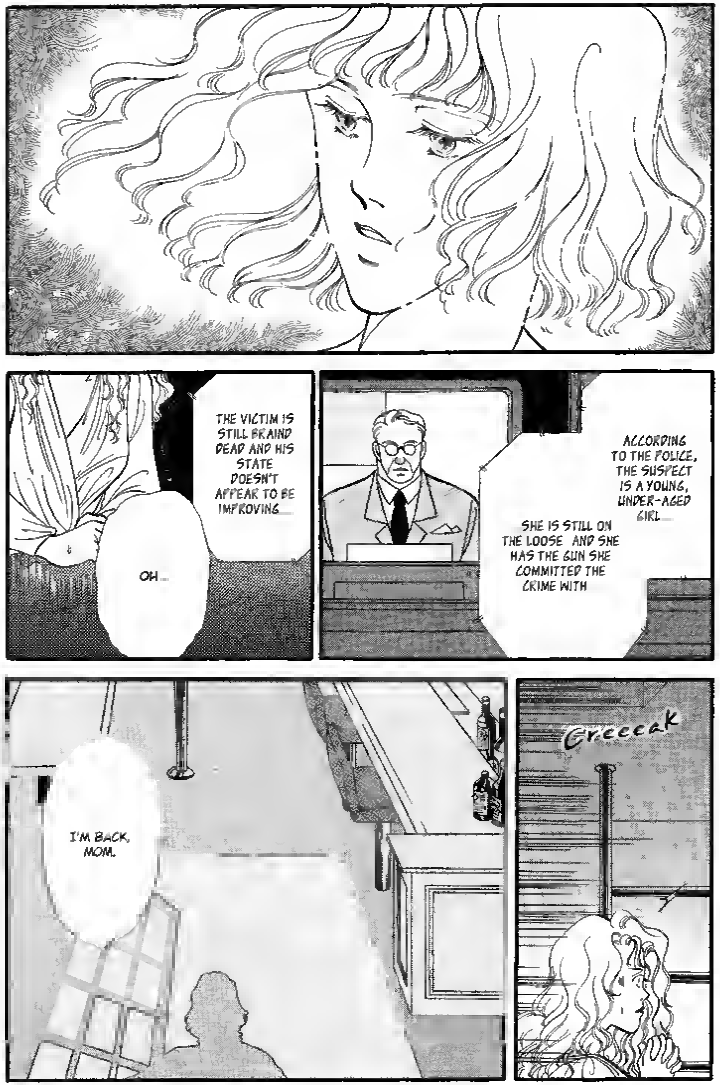
DASH
DASH
THERE HE IS! IT'S HIM!
SCREECH
TURN

WHAT HAPPENED?
THERE ARE POLICE CARS EVERYWHERE. IS IT AN ACCIDENT OR A CRIME?
Huff...
Huff...
AH...
IT COULDN'T BE HIM. BUT...
NAO-YUKI...!
HUEY!!!

MARIKO!!!
FIND MARIKO!
WHEE WOO
WHEE WOO
WHEE WOO
TAP TAP TAP
!
SHE ISN'T THERE...
WE'D BETTER CALL TAKAKO, SHE MIGHT HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING NEW...

SHE MUST'VE WASTED SOME-ONE
WE JUST SAW A LITTLE GIRL WITH A GUN! SHE WAS COVERED IN BLOOD!
POLICE?!
POLICE!!!
CALL THE POLICE!
MARIKO?!
AS SOON AS NAOYUKI RETURNED...
. HE SAID THAT HUEY ASKED HIM TO FIND MARIKO!
YES, SEARCH FOR MARIKO!
THE COPS TOOK HIM..
SO HUEY WAS FOUND?!

FOR GOD'S SAKE! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
!
..AH!
HER HAIR WAS SLIGHTLY CURLY
SHE WAS A GIRL OF ABOUT 16 OR 17 PRETTY ENOUGH
HEY! WHAT DID THAT GIRL LOOK LIKE?!
EH? WHAT?!
ANSWER ME! WAS SHE YOUNG?!
DROP IT! CALL THE POLICE!
!
THAT'S MARIKO!


THE VICTIM IS STILL BRAIND DEAD AND HIS STATE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE IMPROVING...
OH...
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE SUSPECT IS A YOUNG, UNDER-AGED GIRL...
SHE IS STILL ON THE LOOSE AND SHE HAS THE GUN SHE COMMITTED THE CRIME WITH
I'M BACK, MOM.
Creeeak

YOU'RE AN ACCOMPLICE TO ARMS TRAFFICKING! AND AS IT HAPPENED, IT'S A CRIME! HOW CAN I LET YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE?!
FOOL! YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
BANG
I PROMISE I'LL COME BACK!
CERTAINLY NOT!
I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNEW!
I BEG YOU, LET ME GO! IT'S ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES!
MAY I TALK TO HIM FOR A MOMENT?
EXCUSE ME DETECTIVE.
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
SHIT! LET ME OUT!
OLD MAN...
...YOU GOT YOURSELF IN A FINE MESS!
!
Open

...
YES
YOU ADMITTED THAT YOU WERE COLLABORATING WITH THIS GANG OF DEALERS?
THEY THINK YOU ALSO KNOW WHO SHOT THAT MAN. IF THIS IS THE CASE, NOW IS THE TIME TO SPEAK UP.
IS HE A YAKUZA? WHY WAS HE SHOT?
I CAN FIND OUT WHO DID IT
THAT'S THE JOB OF THE POLICE. HUEY, TELL ME, WHERE'S THE CULPRIT?
HUEY
DON'T TREAT HER LIKE A CRIMINAL! IT'S NOT HER FAULT!
BANG

WE ONLY WANTED TO GO TO AMERICA...
I BEG YOU
HELP ME. I BEG YOU..
MARIKO!!!

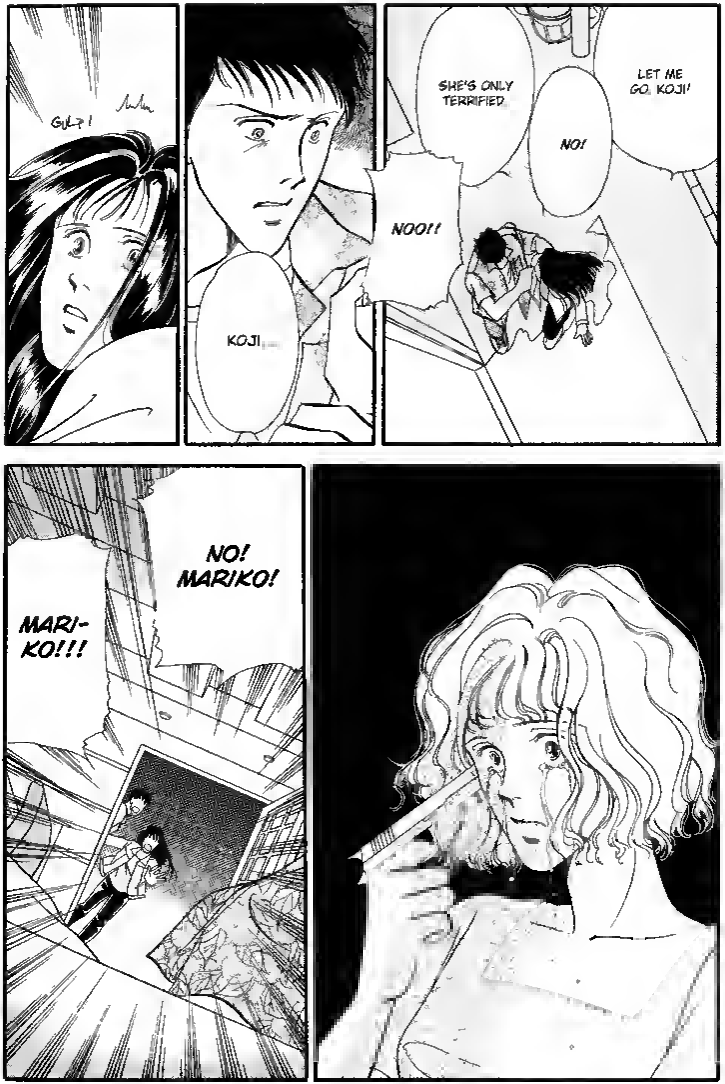
I WASN'T THE ONE WHO SENT HIM AFTER YOU, HE DID IT ALL ON HIS OWN...
PLEASE, HELP ME
MARIKO... FORGIVE ME, PLEASE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU MUST HELP ME...
AH...
!
I CAN'T GO BACK TO HUEY'S PLACE
I MADE A BIG MISTAKE. I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
WHAT CAN I DO, MOM?
THUD
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

WHAT SHOULD I DO...
...MOM?
HE'S GOING TO HATE ME AND LEAVE ME...
I JUST DISCOVERED THAT HE REALLY LOVED ME...
I FINALLY FOUND HUEY...
OH...
I GOT SCARED, AND
THAT MAN... I DIDN'T WANT TO... HE CAME NEAR ME...
GRIP
!
GRAB
POOR BABY...

I DIDN'T WANT THAT KIND OF MAN TO TOUCH ME AGAIN.
I ONLY WANTED TO PUSH HIM BACK... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
WHY...?
MARIKO!!!
GROWL
!
MOM, IF YOU HADN'T TAKEN HIM OVER THERE...

A GUN-SHOT...?
BANG!!
WAIT, KOJI!
OVER THERE IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE...
!
IS SOMEONE THERE?
ANSWER ME...
Creak

KOJI..
NAE..!
WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME? YOU HAVEN'T COME TO HELP ME.. LIKE IN THE PAST...?
STAY BACK, NAE! SHE'S STILL ARMED!
KOJI, DON'T HATE ME, PLEASE...
NAE, HELP ME...
KOJI...
GO.. AND HIDE!!!

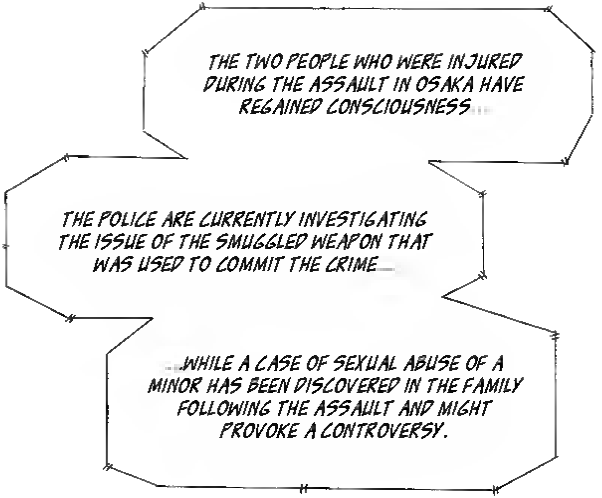

GULP!
KOJI...
NOO!!
NO!
SHE'S ONLY TERRIFIED.
LET ME GO, KOJI!
MARI-KO!!!
NO! MARIKO!

MARIKO!!!

GO WHERE?
WE'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU
LET'S GO TOGETHER.
HUEY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
COME OVER HERE!
TO AMERICA.
BUT... HOW CAN IT BE? EVERYTHING IS OVER
I RUINED EVERYTHING... EVERYTHING IS MY FAULT...

.. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
...LISTEN, MARIKO.
I KNOW.
I WANTED TO GO TO AMERICA WITH YOU...
YES?
HUEY, I...
CLANG
COME HERE
THE PLAN HAS CHANGED, BUT... JUST A LITTLE...
SO... YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY, OKAY?

WHEE WOO
WHEE WOO
WE'LL LEAVE ALL TOGETHER.
..EVEN IF EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED ..


THE TWO PEOPLE WHO WERE INJURED DURING THE ASSAULT IN OSAKA HAVE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS...
THE POLICE ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE ISSUE OF THE SMUGGLED WEAPON THAT WAS USED TO COMMIT THE CRIME...
...WHILE A CASE OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE FAMILY FOLLOWING THE ASSAULT AND MIGHT PROVOKE A CONTROVERSY.
...THE REST OF THE NEWS...

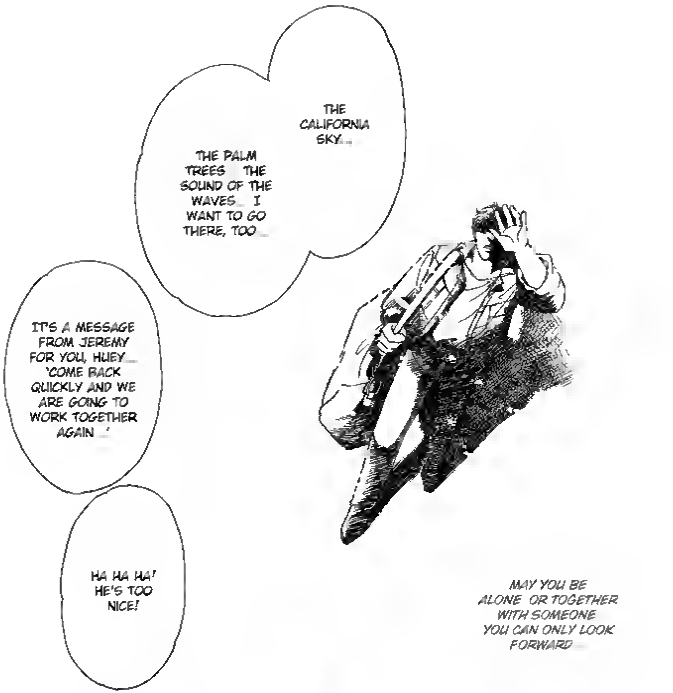
WHEE WOO

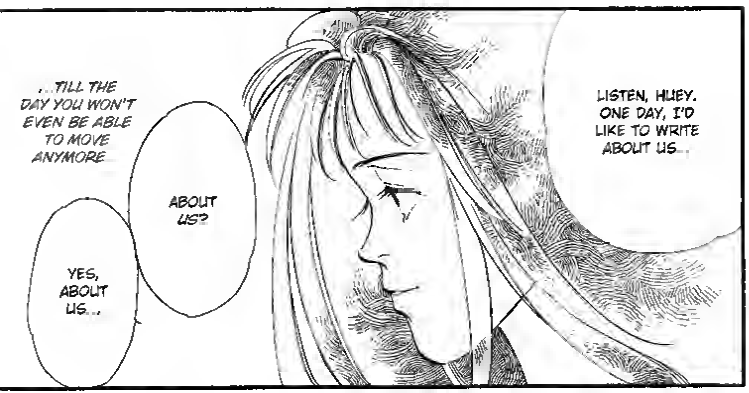
THIS IS A POSTCARD FROM TAKAKO IN ITALY.
OH REALLY? HOW IS SHE?
SHE'S A STRONG GIRL. SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE IN ITALY...
NAOYUKI HAS HIS WORK CUT OUT IF HE WANTS HER TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
SPEAKING OF NAOYUKI... HE WAS HIRED AS A GUITARIST IN A PROFESSIONAL BAND.
SO HIS CAREER AS A STAR FOR CHICKS IS OVER...?
I KNEW IT. I KNEW IT.
HA HA HA! AS WE IMAGINED, HE GOT FED UP REALLY QUICKLY!
...ALL THE BETTER.
I THINK YOU LOOK RATHER WELL.

CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE DIFFICULT SITUATION SHE WAS EXPERIENCING... THEY SAY SHE'LL PROBABLY BE ACQUITTED
ALL RIGHT. SHE'S CALMER NOW.
HOW IS MARIKO?
SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU
...
HE HE ON THE OTHER HAND, I FIND MYSELF ALL ALONE
I ENVY YOU TWO... I'M CERTAIN YOU WON'T LEAVE EACH OTHER'S SIDE EVER AGAIN.
WHAT?

MAYBE MARIKO AND I ARE TOGETHER ONLY BECAUSE WE AREN'T ABLE TO BE ALONE...
YOU NEED A LOT OF STRENGTH TO REMAIN ALONE
TODAY HE AIN'T SO HARSH TOWARDS HIM...
KOJI HAS ACCEPTED THAT JOB, HASN'T HE?
YES!

HUEY, THAT'S NOT FUNNY, YOU KNOW?
...OR ELSE TODAY HE WOULD BE HERE, WITH ME...
BASICALLY, YOU HAVE TO THANK ME
I SAVED HIM FROM BECOMING A CRIMINAL...
IT MUST BE GREAT...
...TO GO TO LOS ANGELES.
I WORRY ABOUT HIM... HE DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH VERY WELL.
DON'T WORRY, NAE. HE'LL MANAGE.
MMH... YES


THE CALIFORNIA SKY...
THE PALM TREES... THE SOUND OF THE WAVES... I WANT TO GO THERE, TOO...
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM JEREMY FOR YOU, HUEY... 'COME BACK QUICKLY AND WE ARE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER AGAIN...'
HA HA HA! HE'S TOO NICE!
MAY YOU BE ALONE OR TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE YOU CAN ONLY LOOK FORWARD...


...TILL THE DAY YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO MOVE ANYMORE...
ABOUT US?
YES, ABOUT US...
LISTEN, HUEY. ONE DAY, I'D LIKE TO WRITE ABOUT US...

..ONE
DAY...